

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

May 28, 2013

Adoption of Mills Act Ordinance

There are numerous historic and cultural resources in the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles (County) that must be appropriately preserved in order to showcase the County's heritage, promote sustainable development and encourage neighborhood revitalization. However, this will not be sufficiently done without economic incentives. The Mills Act is considered to be the single most important economic incentive program in California for the restoration, preservation and maintenance of historic buildings by private property owners. This time-tested strategy provides dedicated resources for property owners to protect, conserve and rehabilitate buildings, structures, and other important historic and cultural resources, thereby promoting direct reinvestment in older communities.

Experience in cities throughout the State has demonstrated that the incentives available through a Mills Act program help advance a range of public benefits including small business development, affordable housing, job creation, promotion of the arts and culture, and tourism. It is time that the Board of Supervisors put in place a program that can benefit and enhance the unincorporated communities throughout the County.

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MOTION

MOLINA _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Find that the adoption of the Mills Act ordinance and establishment of a Mills Act Program is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to sections 15061(b)(3) and 15331 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CEQA Guidelines);
2. Indicate its intent to approve the draft ordinance as recommended by the Regional Planning Commission to amend Title 22 of the County Code (Planning and Zoning) to establish a Mills Act program and set applicable fees;
3. Indicate its intent to adopt an ordinance amending Title 3 of the County Code to authorize the Landmarks Commission to comment on application materials and guidelines for the Mills Act program;
4. Instruct the Director of the Department of Regional Planning to develop an informational booklet that could be downloaded from the Department of Regional Planning's website to educate residents on the Los Angeles County Mills Act Program; and
5. Instruct County Counsel to prepare the final ordinances amending Title 22 of the County Code and Title 3 of the County Code, and bring them back to the Board at a future meeting for consideration and possible action.

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